GOLDEN
Disney's
THE LITTLE
MERMAID
ARIEL'S NEW FRIEND

This Golden Book belongs to

Sheila

Disney's

THE LITTLE MERMAID

ARIEL'S NEW FRIEND

Story adapted by Michael Teitelbaum

Illustrated by Cardona

Based on "Urchin," an episode of the television series WALT DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID.

A GOLDEN BOOK • NEW YORK
Western Publishing Company, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin 53404

© 1994 The Walt Disney Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. No part of this book may be reproduced or copied in any form without written permission from the copyright owner. GOLDEN, GOLDEN & DESIGN, GOLDENCRAFT, A GOLDEN BOOK, A GOLDEN LOOK-LOOK BOOK, and A GOLDEN LOOK-LOOK BOOK & DESIGN are registered trademarks of Western Publishing Company, Inc. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 93-78956 ISBN: 0-307-12817-2/ISBN: 0-307-62817-5 (lib. bdg.)
MCMXCIV

In a beautiful land under the sea called Atlantica, there lived a young merboy named Urchin. He was about the same age as the little mermaid, Ariel. But Urchin's life was very different from that of King Triton's youngest daughter.

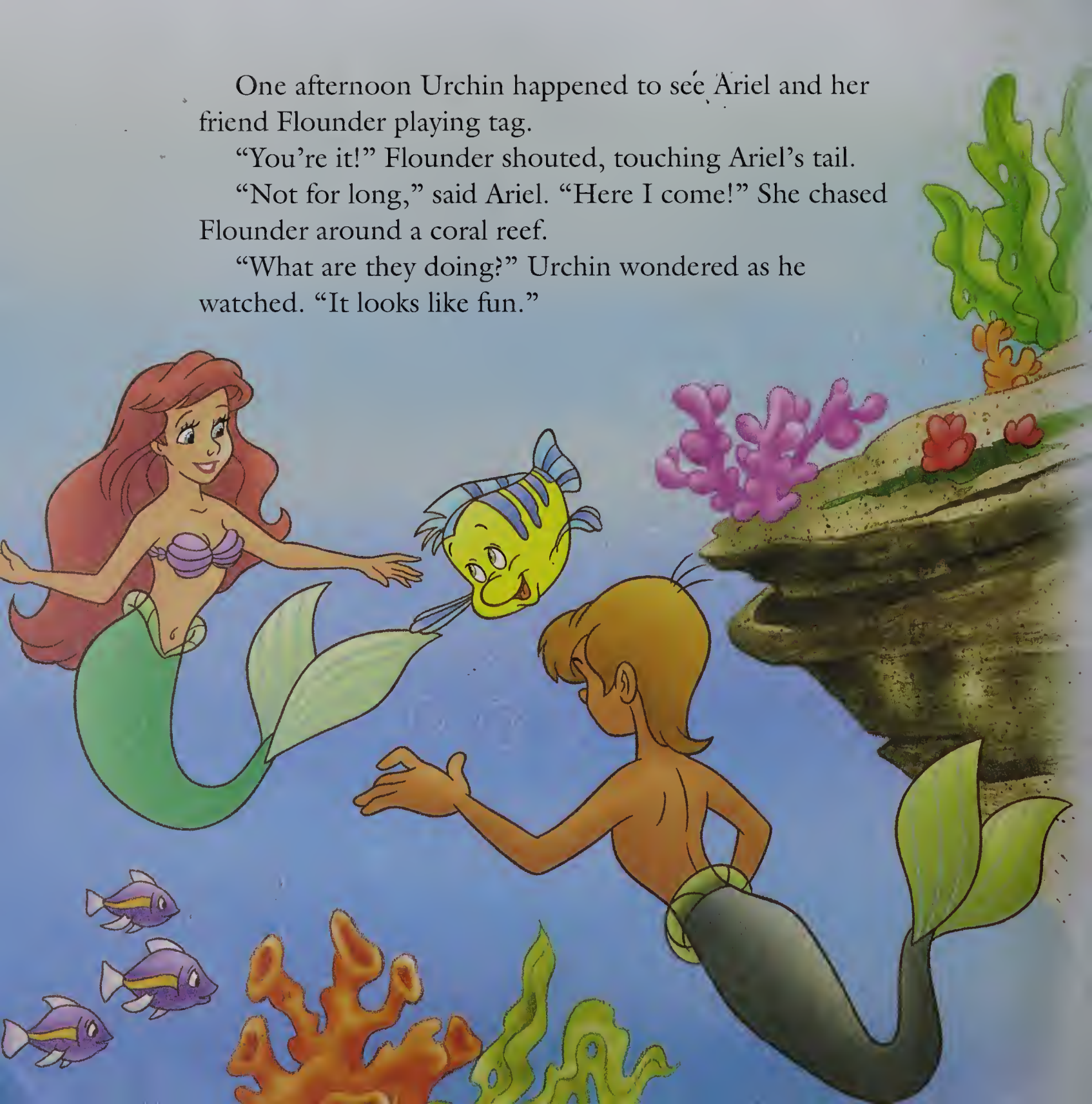
Urchin was an orphan who lived alone in an undersea cave. He had no friends, and he spent a good deal of his time searching the bottom of the ocean for scraps of food. Often he ate nothing but seaweed.

One afternoon Urchin happened to see Ariel and her friend Flounder playing tag.

"You're it!" Flounder shouted, touching Ariel's tail.

"Not for long," said Ariel. "Here I come!" She chased Flounder around a coral reef.

"What are they doing?" Urchin wondered as he watched. "It looks like fun."



As she swam after Flounder, Ariel suddenly came upon Urchin. Although she didn't know the merboy, she decided to include him in the game. "You're it!" she said, tapping him on the shoulder from behind.

"Hey!" shouted Urchin. "What's the idea of sneaking up on me?"

"That's part of the game, silly," said Ariel. "You're it!"

Before Urchin knew it, he was playing tag for the first time ever—and having lots of fun.

When the game of tag ended, Ariel asked Urchin, "Where do you live? I haven't seen you before."

"My name is Urchin. I live by myself in a cave just past the Valley of the Sunken Ships," explained Urchin. "I don't have any parents."

"Parents!" cried Ariel. She suddenly remembered something. "My father, King Triton, is hosting the Neptune Banquet today. I have to get back to the palace. Come visit me sometime. Oh, by the way, my name is Ariel. Let's go, Flounder!"

The merboy swam back to his cave. "The Neptune Banquet," he said to himself. "A banquet means food. She told me to visit her. Why not today?"

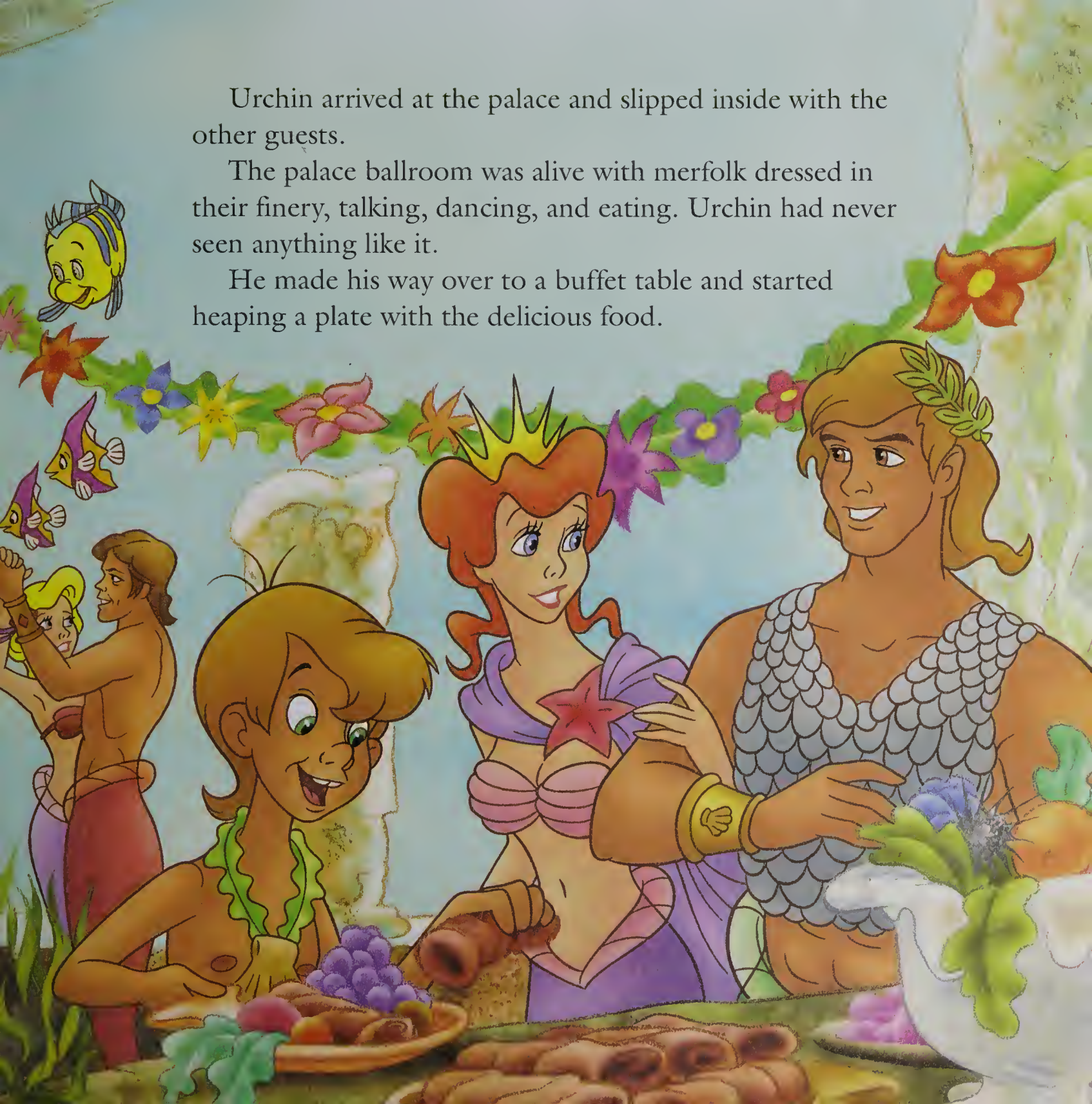
Urchin wasn't sure what merfolk wore to a royal banquet. So he pulled out an old trunk in which he kept odds and ends that he found while searching the ocean bottom for food. "This should do," he said, trying on an elegant medallion. It was a bit large, but Urchin didn't care.

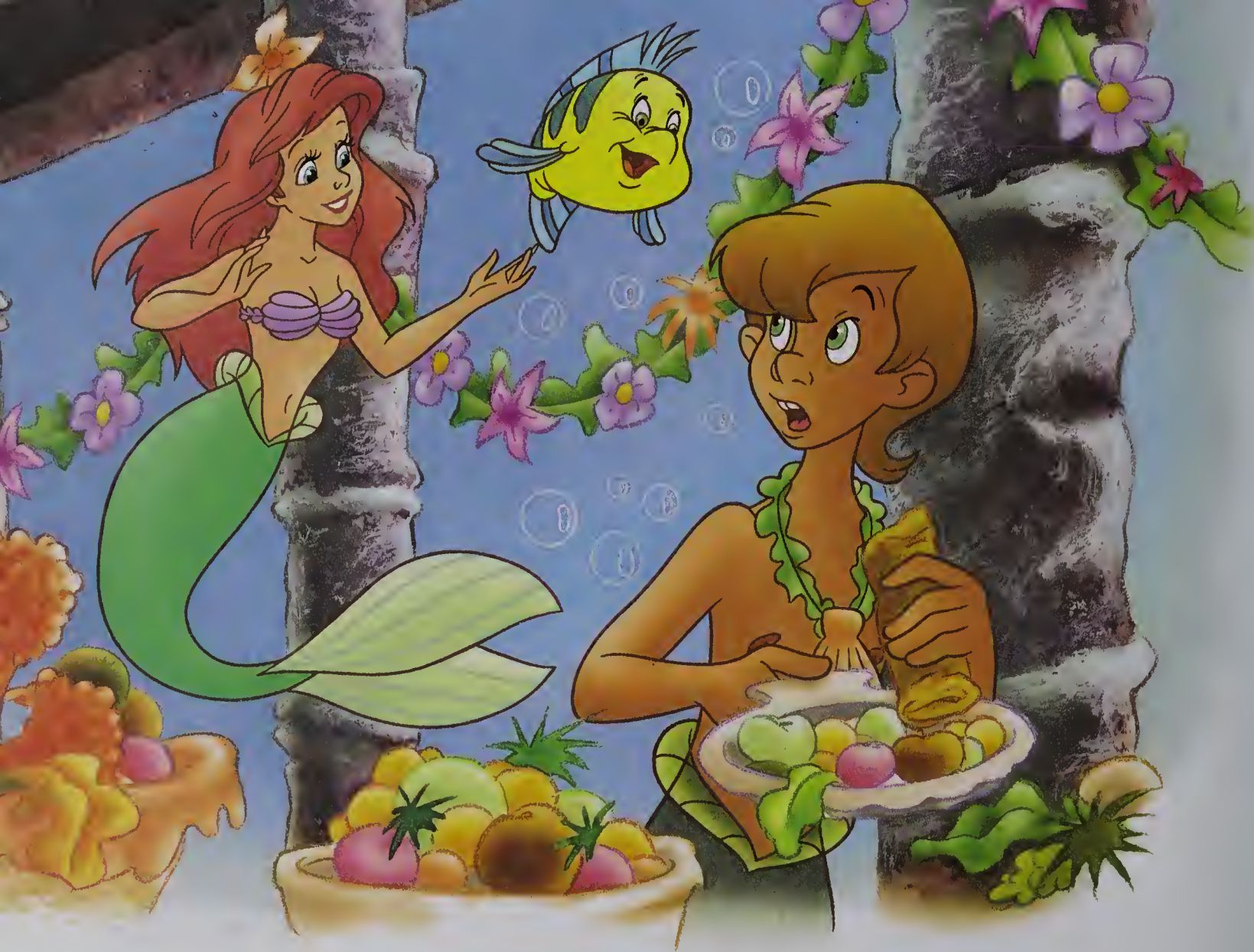
When he was ready, Urchin swam off toward the palace.

Urchin arrived at the palace and slipped inside with the other guests.

The palace ballroom was alive with merfolk dressed in their finery, talking, dancing, and eating. Urchin had never seen anything like it.

He made his way over to a buffet table and started heaping a plate with the delicious food.





Ariel was enjoying the dancing. As she and Flounder swirled around the ballroom, they spotted a guest with a huge plate of food.

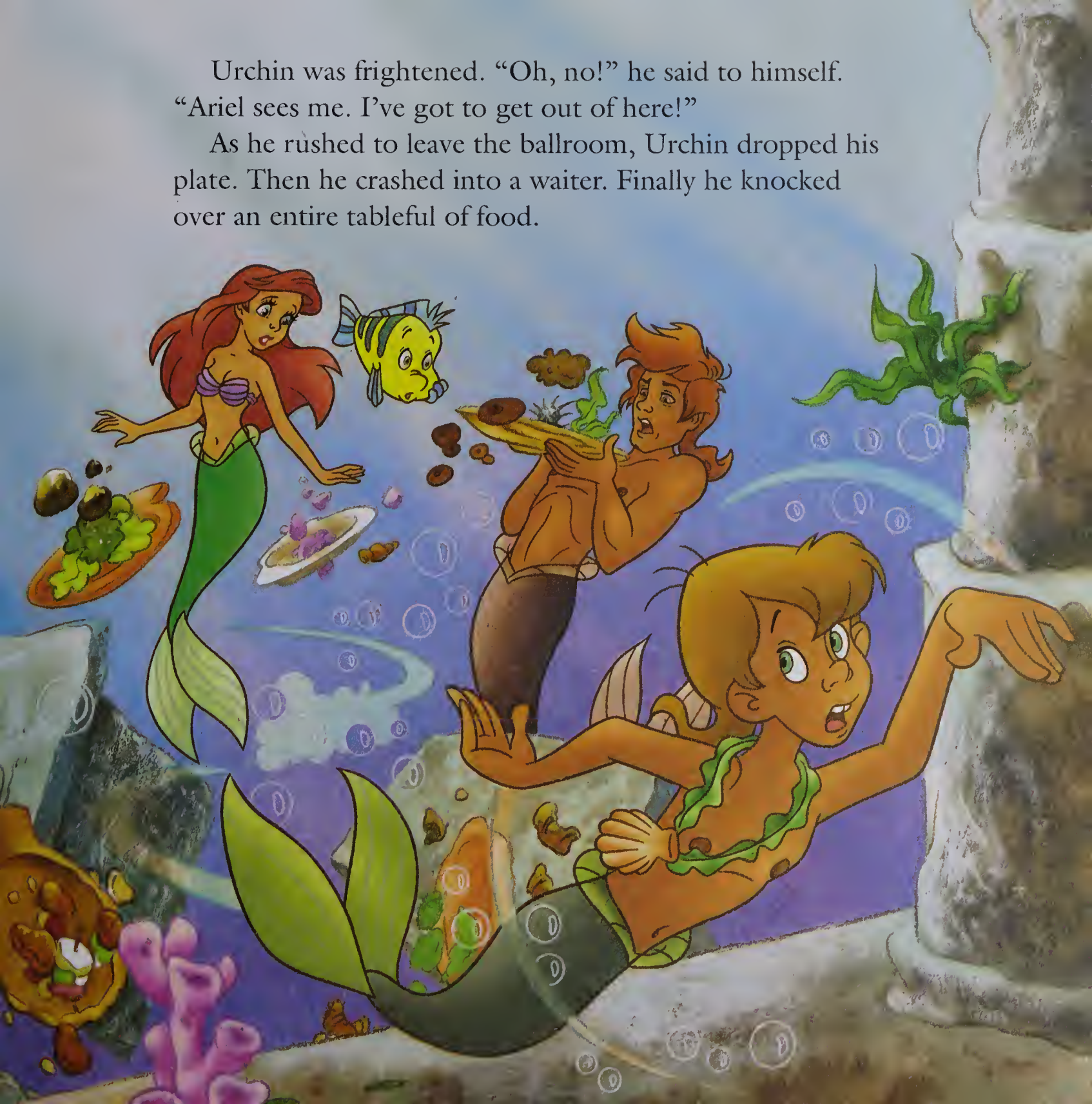
"Who is that?" said Ariel, giggling.

"Wait," said Flounder. "That's Urchin!"

"Urchin!" Ariel called out. "Is that you?"

Urchin was frightened. "Oh, no!" he said to himself. "Ariel sees me. I've got to get out of here!"

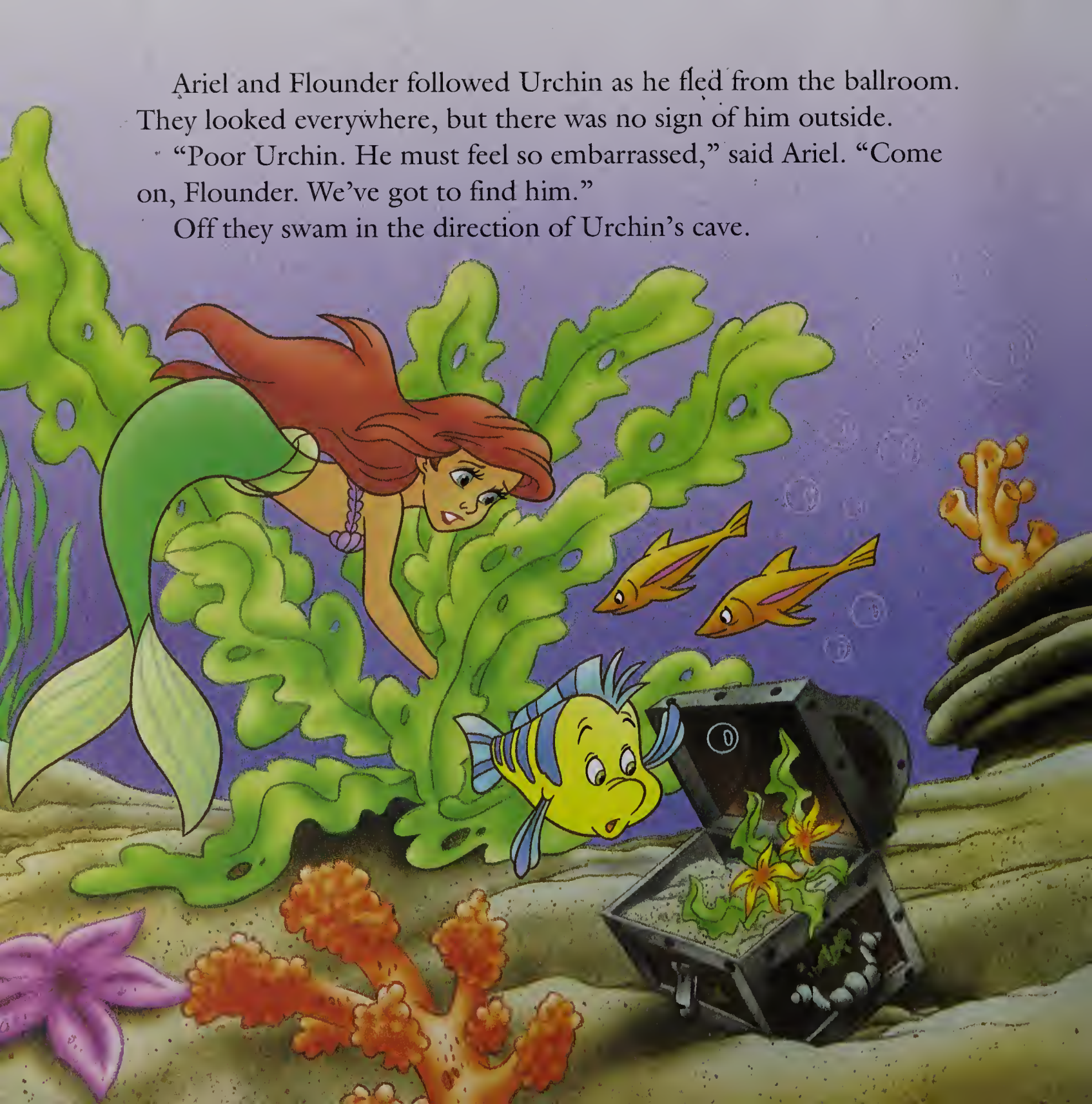
As he rushed to leave the ballroom, Urchin dropped his plate. Then he crashed into a waiter. Finally he knocked over an entire tableful of food.



Ariel and Flounder followed Urchin as he fled from the ballroom. They looked everywhere, but there was no sign of him outside.

"Poor Urchin. He must feel so embarrassed," said Ariel. "Come on, Flounder. We've got to find him."

Off they swam in the direction of Urchin's cave.



Ariel was right. Urchin *did* feel terrible about sneaking into the banquet. He threw the medallion that he was wearing away after he left the palace and thought about what to do.

"I wish I could be Ariel's friend," he thought. "I better go back to apologize to her for messing up the banquet."

As Urchin returned to the palace, King Triton was just coming out to see if he could find the merboy who had caused all the commotion.

"The king!" cried Urchin, stopping in his tracks. He turned and began racing away from the palace.

"Come back, young man!" called King Triton. "I won't hurt you."

But Urchin was gone, sure that the king was mad at him.

Meanwhile Ariel and Flounder were heading for Urchin's cave. On the way they came to the Valley of the Sunken Ships.

"Let's look in that small boat, Flounder," said Ariel. "Urchin might be hiding there."

Ariel and Flounder swam into the boat and began to look for Urchin. But he was not there.

While they were inside, the boat suddenly began to shake. "What's going on?" asked Flounder.

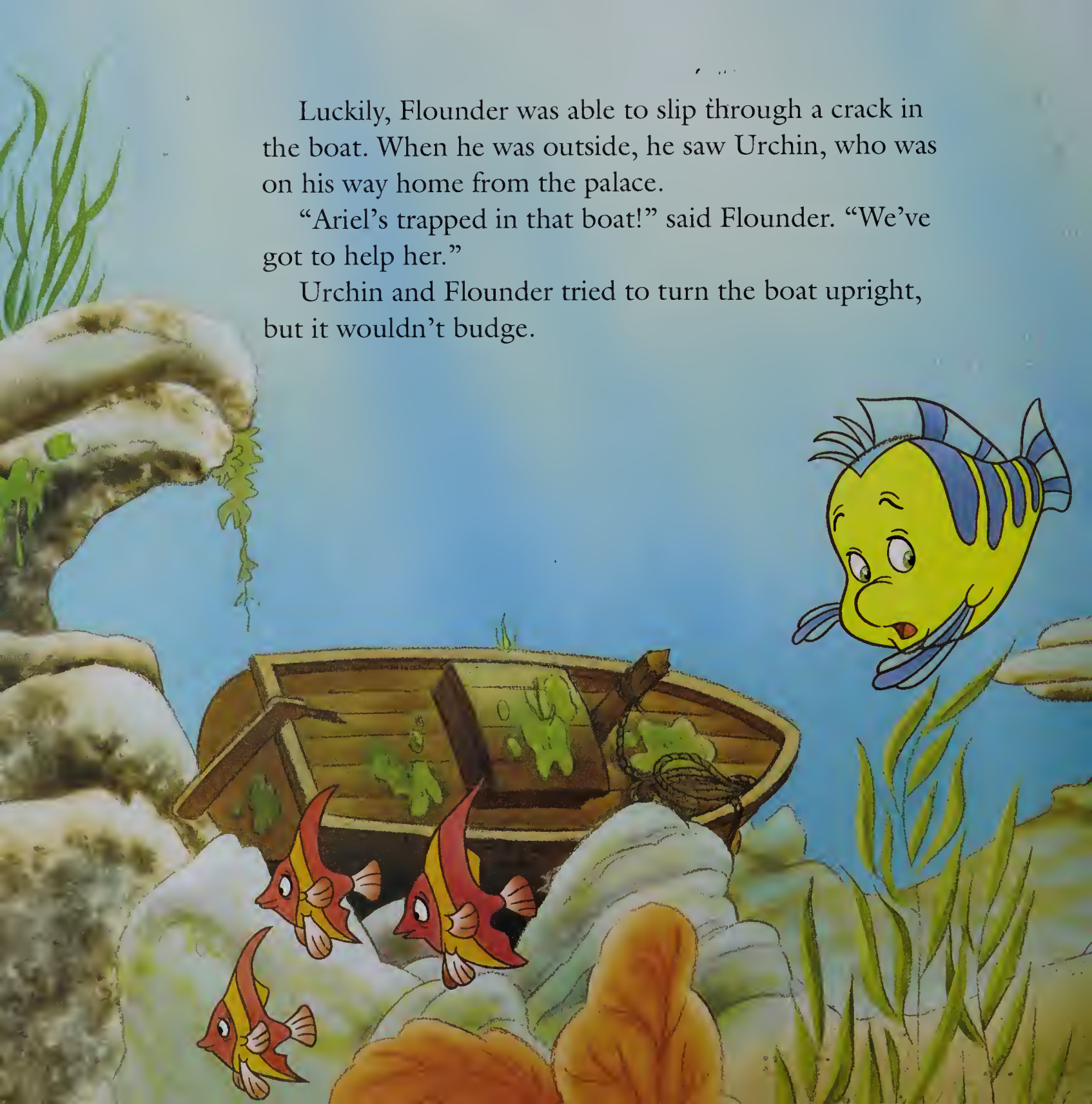
"It's an undersea quake," said Ariel. "Let's get out of here!"

But they were too late. The movement from the quake turned the boat over on its side and Ariel was trapped inside. Even worse, Ariel's hair was pinned against a wall by one of the boat's beams. "Go get help, Flounder!"

Luckily, Flounder was able to slip through a crack in the boat. When he was outside, he saw Urchin, who was on his way home from the palace.

"Ariel's trapped in that boat!" said Flounder. "We've got to help her."

Urchin and Flounder tried to turn the boat upright, but it wouldn't budge.



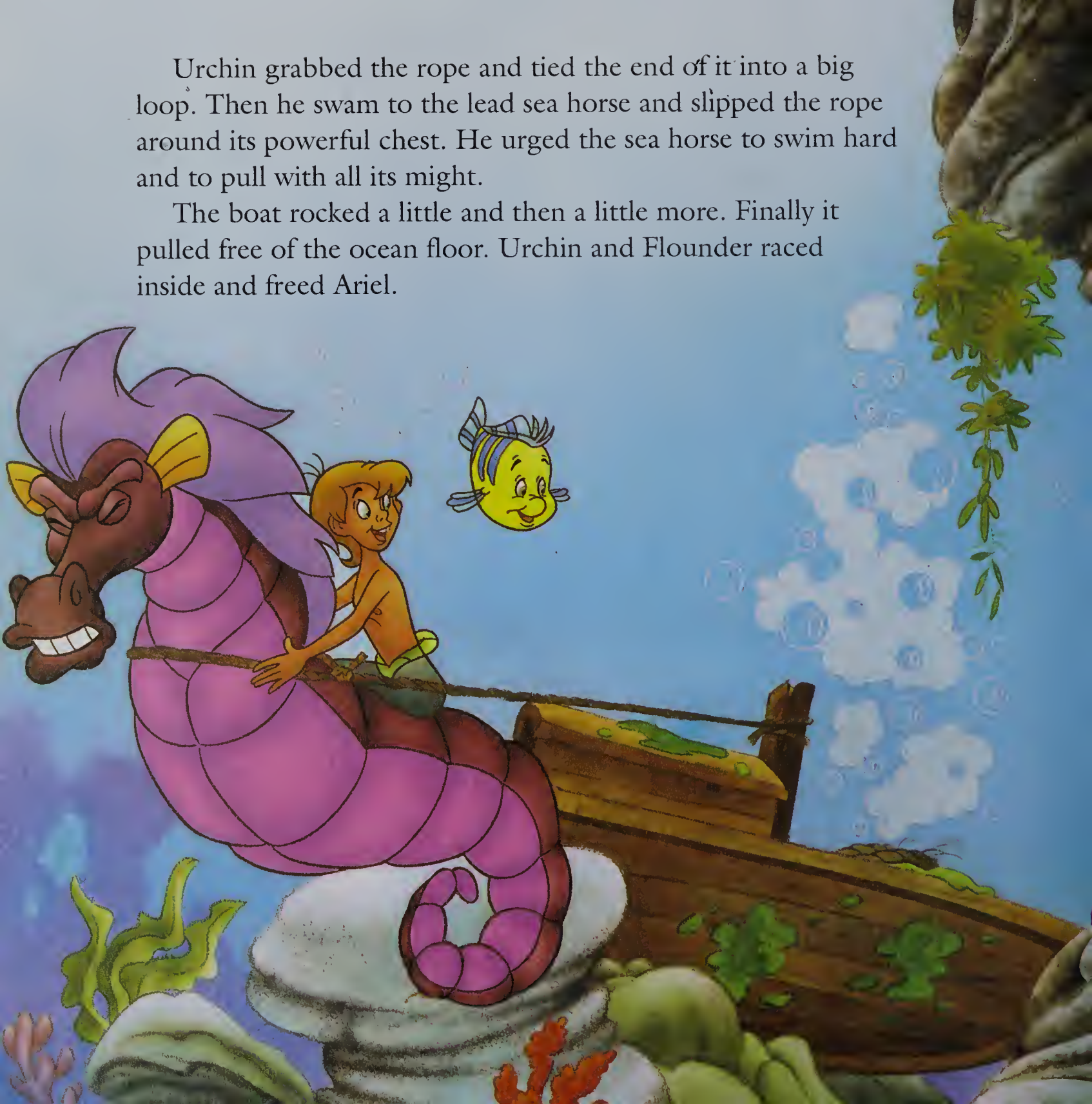
"We're not strong enough to move it," said Urchin.

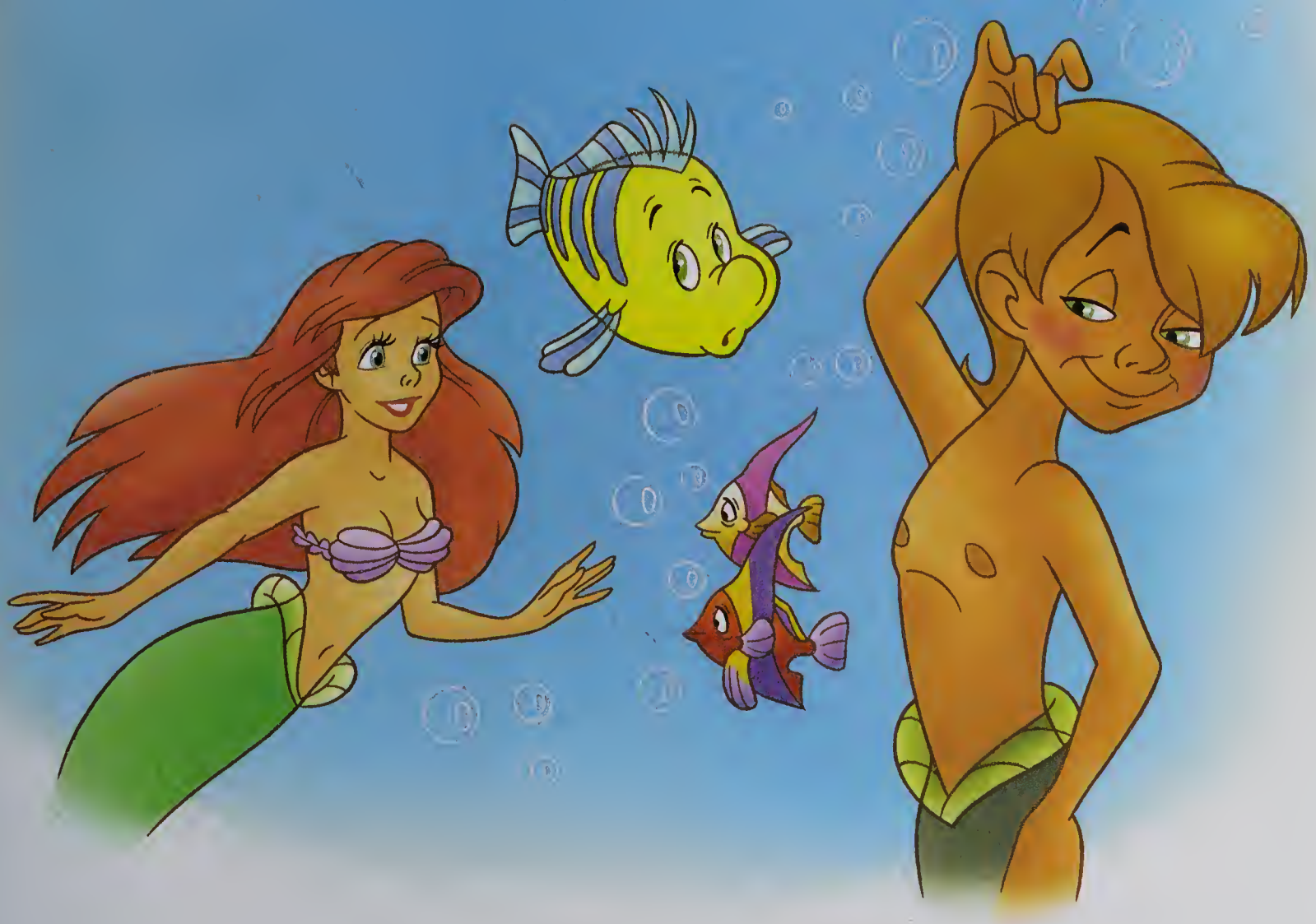
Just then some sea horses came by. Urchin looked around and spotted a rope.

"I've got an idea," said Urchin. Then he swam toward the rope.

Urchin grabbed the rope and tied the end of it into a big loop. Then he swam to the lead sea horse and slipped the rope around its powerful chest. He urged the sea horse to swim hard and to pull with all its might.

The boat rocked a little and then a little more. Finally it pulled free of the ocean floor. Urchin and Flounder raced inside and freed Ariel.





"Thank you for saving my life," said Ariel, once they were outside the boat.

"You're welcome," said Urchin shyly. "I sure would like to be your friend, Ariel."

"I'd like to be friends, too," said Ariel. "And I want to invite you to the palace again, but I think we have to talk to my father first."

"But I don't know if I can face him," said Urchin.

"My father understands about mistakes," Ariel said. "I make lots of them."

Urchin swam back to the palace with Ariel and Flounder. He entered the throne room hesitantly.

"Come in!" bellowed King Triton. "Don't dawdle!"

Urchin swam up to the throne. "I'm sorry I ruined your party, Your Majesty," Urchin mumbled.

"Unheard of—sneaking into a royal banquet!" boomed the king.

"Yes, sir," replied Urchin, shaking with fear.

King Triton stroked his beard. Then he smiled. "I like that. It shows spunk," he said. "I also heard that you rescued Ariel, using a sea horse. Very clever. How would you like a job as the new assistant royal sea horse trainer?"

"Yes, sir!" said Urchin, beaming. "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Urchin began his new job the very next day.

Ariel came to visit. "How are you doing so far?" she asked.

"Just fine," replied Urchin. "Thanks to you."

"Don't thank me," said Ariel. "You were the one who was brave enough to rescue me. I'm just happy to have a new friend at the palace."

Urchin smiled as he brushed a sea horse. He was happy, too—happy to finally have a place where he knew he really belonged.

GOLDEN LOOK-LOOK® BOOKS

Discover the Magic of Disney's Classic Animated Films

Brand-new retellings, lavishly illustrated with sparkling full-color artwork, bring a new dimension to the enjoyment of these treasures.

9780307128171
2016-03-03 10:17
22

12817
ISBN: 0-307-12817-2